

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 06269 300946Z

22 10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 /087 W

----- 058909

R 300807Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7300

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 6269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP MR AG

SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP

1. SUMMARY: GOM CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE SMOOTH INTEGRATION OF SAHARA AND SAHARAN SATISFACTION WITH THE PROCESS; AT SAME TIME, GOM GENERALLY DOWNPLAYING MILITARY ASPECTS. PRESS FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY. OUTLOOK ON RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA REMAINS UNPROMISING. END SUMMARY.

2. PUBLIC ASPECTS: IN PAST SEVERAL DAYS, GOM HAS CARRIED ON WITH POLICY OF PRESENTING INTEGRATION OF SAHARA AS SMOOTHLY EVOLVING PROCESS ENJOYING ENTHUSIASM OF POPULATION. FOLLOWING RECENT "APPROVAL" OF MADRID ACCORDS BY JEMAA (RABAT 6231), PRIMIN OSMAN TRAVELED TO EL AYOUN DEC. 24 WITH 11 CABINET MEMBERS IN TOW IN MAJOR PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT. OSMAN REPORTEDLY ADDRESSED THE JEMAA, WHICH SAID TO HAVE GREETED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 06269 300946Z

HIM WARMLY. SECSTATE FOR INTERIOR BASRI, WHO HAS BEEN

SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE SAHARA, AND MOROCCAN GOVERNOR BENSOUDA HAVE ALSO KEPT UP PACE OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES, INCLUDING FURTHER ACCEPTANCES OF ALLEGIANCE FROM SAHARAN TRIBES. IN CONTINUING ADMINISTRATIVE TURNOVER, SPANISH AUTHORITIES PRESENTED KEYS TO EL AYOUN PRISON TO MOROCCANS, WHO IMMEDIATELY RELEASED PRISONERS, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP. PRISONERS, WHO IDENTIFIED IN PRESS HERE AS FLU MEMBERS, WERE RECEIVED PUBLICLY BY OSMAN DEC. 24.

3. ON OTHER SIDE OF THE HOUSE, WE NOTE MADRID RADIO REPORT THAT F POLISARIO HAS DENIED IT PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATING SETTING UP A PROVISIONAL SAHARAN GOVERNMENT, AND THAT POLISARIO CLAIMING SUPREME SAHARAN AUTHORITY AT MOMENT IS "NATIONAL COUNCIL" MADE UP OF 115 SAHARAN DIGNITARIES WHO FLED THE TERRITORY.

4. MILITARY: SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS IS STILL IGNORING ANY MOROCCAN INVOLVEMENT IN CLASHES WITH F POLISARIO. WORDS OF ARMY COMMANDER AT SMARA, LT. COLONEL OUALI (RABAT 6231), GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY UNDER HEADLINE "ONE SPEAKS OF POLISARIO BUT I HAVE NEVER SEEN IT." COVERAGE OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS HAS BEEN LIMITED TO REPORTS OF GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON MAURITANIANS, PRESENTED AS PURELY MAURITANIAN BATTLE WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP. DIRECT OR INDIRECT MOROCCAN PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHERN SAHARA FIGHTING WAS FLATLY DENIED IN SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS EDITORIAL DEC. 23, ALTHOUGH EDITORIAL REAFFIRMED MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN RIGHT TO UNDERTAKE JOINTLY WHATEVER MEASURES NEEDED AGAINST "SUBVERSION OR AGGRESSION IN SAHARA." EDITORIAL ALSO INDIRECTLY ACCUSED ALGERIA OF AIDING AND ENCOURAGING AGGRESSION AGAINST MAURITANIA BY MERCENARIES AND "MISGUIDED NON-SAHARANS" IN "IMPERIALIST, EXPANSIONIST ENTERPRISE."

5. MEANWHILE, INFOR MIN BENHIMA, SPEAKING PRIVATELY DEC. 26, TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SEVERAL ALGERIANS HAD BEEN TAKEN PRISONER AT LA GUERA. AN ALGERIAN OFFICER WHO HAD ALSO TAKEN PART IN THE FIGHTING, ACCORDING TO BENHIMA, WAS KILLED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE, APPARENTLY TO PREVENT HIM FROM FALLING INTO MOROCCAN HANDS. GOM NEVERTHELESS HAS BODY AND IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS, BENHIMA INDICATED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 06269 300946Z

6. DIPLOMATIC: PRESS FOLLOWED OULD MOUKNASS' MOVEMENTS TO LIBYA AND TUNISIA ON SAHARA BUSINESS. ON DEC. 27, KING HASSAN RECEIVED MAURITANIAN PRESIDENTIAL CABINET DIRECTOR OULD MOHAMED FALL, PRESUMABLY FOR A BRIEFING ON OULD MOUKNASS' EFFORTS AND OTHER SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS. RADIO RABAT ALSO REPORTED OULD DADDAH'S SAHARA LETTER TO JORDANIAN KING HUSSEIN (AMMAN 9857). FINALLY, WE HEAR THAT EGYPTIAN MIN OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD RIYAD

ARRIVES DEC. 30. SPECULATION PERSISTS CONCERNING POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN MEDIATORY ROLE BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA, ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERE CONTINUING TO DOWNPLAY SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

7. ALGERIAN RELATIONS: OUTLOOK FOR MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS REMAINS UNPROMISING. ON DEC. 24, ECHOING HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT (RABAT 6191), FONMIN LARAKI AGAIN UNDERLINED TO AMBASSADOR THE GOM'S CONCERN OVER "IRRATIONAL" ALGERIAN BEHAVIOR, ADDING THAT ALGERIA THUS FAR, AND IS BEGINNING TO SHARPEN THE TONE OF ITS TREATMENT OF ALGIERS. IT FEATURED DENUNCIATION OF THE EXPULSIONS BY MOHAMED LEBJAOU, EXILED FLN LEADER, AND DERIDED RAISING OF MOVIE TICKET PRICES IN ALGERIA TO RAISE MONEY FOR F POLISARIO, AS REPORTED BY AFP. PAPERS EVEN HINTED DARKLY THAT ALGERIA CONDONED OPEC TERRORIST ATTACK AND THAT CULPRITS BEING GIVEN ASYLUM IN ALGIERS.
NEUMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL REVERSION, CONCILIATION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT06269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-0970
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975124/aaaaadhy.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA ROUNDUP
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006